

In the *Megatherium* the inferior contour of the lower jaw is peculiarly remarkable, as Cuvier has observed, for the convex prominence or enlargement which is developed downwards from its middle part. In the *Mylodon* the corresponding convexity exists in a very slight degree, not exceeding that which may be observed at the corresponding part of the lower jaw of the *Ai*, or *Orycterope*. A broad and shallow furrow extends along the outer side of the jaw, close to the alveolar margin, from the beginning of the coronoid process to the anterior dental foramen.

The base of the coronoid process begins external and posterior to the last grinder: the whole of the ascending ramus of the jaw, beneath the coronoid process is excavated on its inner side by a wide and deep concavity, bounded below by a well-marked ridge, which extends obliquely backwards from the posterior part of the alveolus of the last grinder to the inferior margin of the ascending ramus, which is bent inwards before it reaches the angle of the jaw.

The large foramen or entry to the dental canal is situated in the internal concavity of the ascending ramus of the jaw, two inches behind the last molar, three inches from the lower margin of the ramus, and nearly five inches from the elevated angle of the jaw: it measures nine lines in the vertical diameter, and its magnitude indicates the large size of the vessels which are destined to supply the materials for the constant renewal of the dental substance, — a substance which from its texture must be supposed to have been subject to rapid abrasion. About an inch behind the dental foramen a deep vascular groove, about two lines in breadth, is continued downwards to the ridge which circumscribes the internal concavity of this part of the jaw, and perforates the ridge, which thus arches over the canal: this structure is present in both rami of the jaw. The mylo-hyoid ridge is distinctly marked about an inch and a half below the alveolar margin. Other muscular ridges and irregular eminences are present on the outer side of the base of the ascending ramus, and near the angle of the jaw; as shown in fig. 1, Pl. XIX.

From the preceding descriptions it will be seen that the lower jaw of the *Mylodon* is very different from that of the *Megatherium*; with that of the *Megalonyx* we have at present no means of comparing it. Among existing Edentata the *Mylodon*, in the form of the posterior part and angle of the jaw, holds an intermediate place between the *Ai* and the great Armadillo; in the form of the ankylosed symphysis of the lower jaw it resembles most closely the Unau or two-toed Sloth; but in the peculiar external configuration of the symphysis resulting from the mammilloid processes above described, the *Mylodon* presents a character which has not hitherto been observed in any other species of *Bruta*, either recent or fossil.

In conclusion it may be stated, that the teeth and bones here described offer

all the conditions and appearances of those of a full grown animal; and that they present a marked difference of size as compared with those of the *Mylodon Harlani*, as will be evident by the following admeasurements.

## ADMEASUREMENTS OF THE LOWER JAW OF MYLODON DARWINII.

	Inches.	Lines.
Length (as far as complete) . . . . .	17	6
Extreme width, from the outside of one ramus to that of the other . . . . .	9	0
Depth of each ramus . . . . .	4	9
Length of alveolar series . . . . .	4	8
From first molar to broken end of symphysis . . . . .	6	0
Breadth of symphysis . . . . .	3	7
Longitudinal extent of symphysis . . . . .	4	6
Circumference of narrowest part of each ramus . . . . .	5	9

DESCRIPTION OF A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE SKELETON OF A LARGE EDENTATE MAMMAL, ALLIED TO THE MEGATHERIUM AND ORYCTEROPUS, AND FOR WHICH IS PROPOSED THE NAME OF

SCOLIDOTHERIUM\* LEPTOCEPHALUM.

OF the large Edentate quadrupeds that once existed in the New World, sufficient of the osseous remains of the gigantic *Megatherium* alone has been transmitted to Europe to give a satisfactory idea of the general form and proportions of the extinct animal.

Different bones of the *Megalonyx*, *Mylodon*, and *Glyptodon* have been described, but not sufficient of the remains of any individual of these subgenera has, hitherto, reached Europe, or been so described as to enable us to form a comparison between them and the *Megatherium*, or any of the existing Edentata, in regard to the general construction and proportions of the entire skeleton.

This state of our knowledge of the osteology of the singular giants of the Edentate Order renders the remains of the present animal peculiarly interesting, since, although the extremities are too imperfect to enable us to reconstruct the entire skeleton, a sufficient proportion of it has been preserved in the natural position to give a very satisfactory idea of its affinities to other Edentata, whose osteology is more completely known.

\* Σκελῆς, femur; ὀστρον, bellua; in allusion to the disproportionate size of the thigh-bone.